

FORE. POLL. DEPTT. SECT.E. OCT.1920.NOS. 169- 185. Contd.

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Enclo. I to Pro No. 173.

No. 10, dated Bahrein, the 10th January 1920.

From- MAJOR H.R.P.DICKSONS, C.I.E., Political Agent,

To- HIS EXCELLENCY SHAIKH SIR ISA BIN ALI AL KHALIFAH  
K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Ruler of Bahrein.

After compliments. The Deputy Political Resident, Persian Gulf, on his recent visit to Bahrein, asked me how the work of the Majlis al Urfi was getting on. Your friend had to express regret and to inform him that the sitting of the Majlis had taken place from the day that Shaikh Abdullah, Your Excellency's son, left for England with Captain Bray, M.C. The Resident requested me to communicate with Your Excellency with a view to arranging for the meetings of the said Majlis to again take place in Manamah as had formerly been arranged between Your Excellency and my predecessor. Indeed the fact that the Majlis al Urfi has not been sitting for so long has caused much extra work to be thrown on the Joint Court, consisting of Your Excellency's representative and myself, and on each occasion it has sat, the court has with great difficulty settle the number of cases which would normally have been sent to the Majlis al Urfi.

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Under the circumstances and acting under the instructions of the Deputy Political Resident and I am now to write to Your Excellency and request that you may see fit to order the Majlis al Urfi to again sit as before. The place of assembly to be Customs House as before. I further beg to inform Your Excellency that the following five people have been selected by me to represent the foreign community in the Majlis:-

- (1) Muhammad Shrif, K.S.
- (2) Abdul Aziz Qusaibi,
- (3) Seth Maharaj .
- (4) Hafiz Khanbai Muhammad Ali .
- (5) Seth Buddha al Banyan.

I hope Your Excellency will approve of their selection. Should you not do so, I will be obliged if you will inform me. Similarly I would like you to inform your friend of the names of five members from Your Excellency's subjects whom Your Excellency would like to represent you.

Your Excellency having approved of the ten names I trust will inform me the date of the first sitting. I myself suggest Thursday, the 14th January (22nd Rabi al Thani) at 10 A.M. as suitable for the first day's sitting, and thereafter on each successive Thursday.

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Your friend will himself always send a Naib to be present with the Majlis al Urfi when it sits, and doubts whether Your Excellency will do the same. Usual ending.

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Encl.-to-IP - Pro No. 173.

Translation of a letter, dated 21st Rabi Al Thani (13th January 1920), from His Excellency Shaikh Sir Isa Bin Ali Al Kahlifah, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Ruler of Bahrein, to Major H.R.P. Dickson, C.I.E., Political Agent, Bahrein.

After compliments. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 10, dated the 18th Rabi al Thani (10th January 1920) regarding the meeting of the Majlis al Urfi and the election of its members, and in order that it may not be hidden from you I may state that on the occasion of the visit of my son Shaikh Abdullah to England, I instructed him to submit certain proposals which had pre-occupied my thoughts to His Majesty's Government for their consideration, and among these the question of the Majlis al Urfi and the election of its members was also included, and in connexion with which he had some discussion with Sir Arthur Hertzell, who promised an answer to them and asked him to submit the same in writing which

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my son accordingly did, and of which I am not sending your honour a copy, and hoping from the justice of His Majesty's Government and their equity that they will support my hopes.

I have also instructed my son Shaikh Abdullah to explain to your honour the proposals at his interview at the upper room of the Customs to-morrow. May God preserve your and may you~~r~~ remain safe.

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Translation of a letter, dated 8th Dhil Hajj 1337 (4th September 1919), from Shhaikh Abdullah bin Shaikh 'Isa bin Ali Al Khalifah, C.I.E., to Sir Arthur Hertzell.

After compliments. With reference to my conversation with Your Honour on Monday last, 7th Dhil Hajj, regarding what my father instructed me to place before His Majesty's Government and Your Honour for consideration you were kind enough to approve of my submitting the same in writing, which I have now the honour to comply with and before proceeding with this I would like to express my great pleasure and hearty thanks for the excellent way in which you made clear to me that His Majesty's Government do not wish to interfere with my father's internal affairs. This, is, oh Honourable, what we were believing in through the justice of His Majesty's Government and I hope His Majesty's Political Agents will

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and as regards proposal they are as follows:

- (1) To be placed on equal level with the Arab Rules who are in the neighbourhood in the exercise or jurisdiction over all subjects in his territory as it is current with the neighbouring rulers and this does not interfere with the honour of His Majesty's Political Agent, and, the subjects of His Majesty's Government and other European Governments and their cases.
- (2) My father hopes that the election of the members of the Majlis al Urfi will be one of his rights like the Shara and Salifah Courts.
- (3) My father hopes from His Majesty's Government to allow him to open the port of Zubarah which is the territory of his forefathers.
- (4) My father hopes to be given the privilege of a reference to higher authorities here, whenever necessary. That I shall convey to my father all what Your Honour said and that his reference should be addressed to the Governor General of India. In conclusion, accept my best respects.

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Telegram dated the 23rd (received 24th) January 1920.

From-The Political Agent, Bahrein,

To-The Deputy Political Resident, Bushire,

(Repeated to the Civil Commissioner, Baghdad).

My memorandum, 9th, 17th January. Majlis Urfi appointed today. Shaikh agreed my selecting half members. Above arrangements for six months only pending receipt of reply Government Shaikh's proposals made London.

Addressed Bushire; repeated Baghdad.

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Pro.No.174.

Telegram P., No.4601, dated the 15th (received the 16th) April 1920.

From-The Civil Commissioner, Baghdad.

To-The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, Simla.

(Repeated to Secretary of State for India).

Please refer to letter\* from India Office No.5649

\*Pro.No.169 dated the 16th September and subsequent correspondence.

Writing on March 19th Ibn Saud states that in the interests of his subjects at Bahrein he is determined to request that jurisdiction over them should be vested in

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Pro.No.175.

Telegram dated London, the 13th (received the 16th)

April 1920.

From-The Secretary of State.

To-The Viceroy (Foreign and Political Department).

Alms. Mr Political Secretary's letter\* No.P.5649

\*Pro.No.169 dated the 16th September last and  
\*\*E.B.Sec.Sept. paragraph\*\* 1 (b) of Bahrein Political  
1920, Nos.237-249. Diary January 20 enclosed in Despatch

of 14th February last No.5418 from Civil Commissioner.

Has any answer been sent to Sheikh Abdullah's letter to  
Hirtzel ?

Addressed Viceroy and repeated to Baghdad.

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Pro.No.176.

Telegram P., No.466-S., dated the 20th April 1920.

From-The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India

in the Foreign and Political Department, Simla,

To-The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Baghdad.

Secretary of State's telegram+ of 13th April and

+Pro.No.175 your 460@ of 15th idem regarding

@Pro.No.176

Behrein. Letter is under preparation

but Government of India think it might be better for the  
following reasons to defer reply to Sheikh Abdullah for